

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS REGULATION

**DEPARTMENT OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY**

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February 12, 2004

Deadline for Comments on Negotiated Agreements

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act") requires that a negotiated interconnection agreement be submitted for approval to the Department. The Act states further that the Department may approve or reject an agreement (with written findings as to any deficiencies) within 90 days of its filing. §§ 252(e)(1), (4). The Department may only reject an agreement if it finds that:

- (1) the agreement (or any portion thereof) discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement, or
- (2) the implementation of the agreement or portion is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

Upon filing of a negotiated agreement by Verizon, all interested persons are hereby informed that they have 30 days in which to file written comments with the Department. If an interested person recommends that the Department reject an agreement, that interested person should specify in detail how the agreement is deficient under either or both of the above two standards. It is the Department's intent to allow negotiated agreements to go into effect 30 days after filing unless the Department determines, based on opposition to the agreement or the Department's review, that the agreement does not meet the above standards.

Persons interested in commenting on an agreement may file written comments with:

Mary Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications & Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110
RE: Negotiated Interconnection Agreements

An original and three (3) copies of any comments should be filed with Secretary Cottrell. Reply comments from parties to the agreement should be filed within 10 days of any opposition.